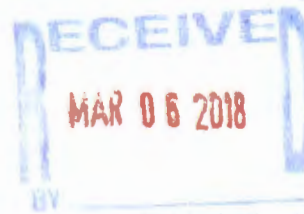




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February 6, 2018

National Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (2822T)
Washington, DC 20460
(202) 566-1667

Dear Freedom of Information Officer,

Hello, my name is Marin Kurti and I am a researcher at Rutgers School of Public Health who is interested in examining the ways illegal markets impact public health. I am quite interested in the recent settlement case that the EPA won against Amazon.com regarding illegal pesticide sales. I have attached a recent article announcing civil injunction imposed on Amazon.com.

I would like to obtain some of the discovery used in the trial including a list of buyers, their addresses and the types of illegal pesticides purchased. I would be interesting in working using this data to reveal trends in the purchase of illegal pesticides. In adherence with the Rutgers University Human Subject Review board, I will not be disclosing the name of the buyers or individual addresses. Instead, my analysis would only focus on the trends of purchase (types of pesticides commonly purchased), seasonality and general geographic location (e.g., Northeast, South, etc.).

Specifically, I am requesting information on each purchase from Amazon.com (2013-2016)

- 1) Date of purchase
- 2) Name of registered company who sold the product
- 3) Address of registered company
- 4) Address of delivery
- 5) Pesticide name and product description

Thank you for your help in the advancement of science.

Sincerely,

Marin Kurti, M.A.
Center for Tobacco Studies
Rutgers School of Public Health

We've made some changes to EPA.gov. If the information you are looking for is not here, you may be able to find it on the EPA Web Archive or the January 19, 2017 Web Snapshot.



News Releases from Region 10

EPA Settles with Amazon for Distributions of Illegal Pesticides

Agreement Will Help Protect Online Consumers

02/15/2018

Contact Information:

Bill Dunbar (dunbar.bill@epa.gov)
206-553-1019

Seattle – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced an agreement with Amazon Services LLC to protect the public from the hazards posed by unregistered and misbranded pesticide products. The agreement settles allegations that Amazon committed nearly four thousand violations of the “Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act” – dating back to 2013 – for selling and distributing imported pesticide products that were not licensed for sale in the United States.

“This agreement will dramatically reduce the online sale of illegal pesticides, which pose serious threats to public health in communities across America,” said **EPA Region 10 Administrator Chris Hladick**. “Amazon is committed to closely monitoring and removing illegal pesticides from its website, and EPA will continue to work hard to ensure these harmful products never reach the marketplace.”

Under the terms of today’s agreement, Amazon will develop an online training course on pesticide regulations and policies that EPA believes will significantly reduce the number of illegal pesticides available through the online marketplace. The training will be available to the public and online marketers in English, Spanish and Chinese. Successful completion of the training will be mandatory for all entities planning to sell pesticides on Amazon.com.

Amazon will also pay an administrative penalty of \$1,215,700 as part of the consent agreement and final order entered into by Amazon and EPA’s Region 10 office in Seattle, Washington.

In late 2014, EPA began investigating online pesticide product distributions and sales through several internet retail sites including Amazon and third-party sellers that used Amazon's online marketing platform. In March 2015, EPA inspected an Amazon facility in Lexington, Kentucky, and inspectors in EPA's Region 10 office successfully ordered illegal pesticides from Amazon.com. In August 2015, EPA issued a FIFRA Stop Sale, Use, or Removal Order against Amazon to prohibit the sale of the illegal pesticide products that can easily be mistaken for black-board or side-walk chalk, especially by children.

EPA issued another Stop Sale Order against Amazon in January 2016 after discovering that certain unregistered or misbranded insecticide bait products were being offered for sale on Amazon.com. After receiving the stop sale orders, Amazon immediately removed the products from the marketplace, prohibited foreign sellers from selling pesticides, and cooperated with EPA during its subsequent investigation. The orders, as well as EPA's subsequent engagement with the company, prompted Amazon to more aggressively monitor its website for illegal pesticides. As a result, Amazon has created a robust compliance program comprised of a sophisticated computer-based screening system backed-up by numerous, trained staff.

In October 2016, Amazon notified all customers who purchased the illegal pesticides between 2013 and 2016 to communicate safety concerns with these products and urge disposal. Amazon also refunded those customers the cost of the products, approximately \$130,000.

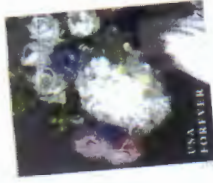
Non-English speaking members of the public are at increased risk from these pesticides that are illegal in the U.S. but have long been used throughout Asia. These populations' familiarity with these products make it more likely they will order them from online sources such as Amazon. By removing such products from Amazon's online platform and by educating third party sellers on the hazards of these unregistered and misbranded pesticide products, this agreement will decrease the availability of these unsafe products and protect these vulnerable groups.

For more information on this settlement or to read a copy of the consent agreement and final order, go to: <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/amazon-services-llc-fifra-settlement>.

Learn how to avoid illegal pesticide products: <https://www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol/avoid-illegal-household-pesticide-products>.



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